REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending. Claims 4 and 12-16 have been amended. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

A.   Claims 1-3, 5-7, 10-13, 15, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Mirashrafi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,199,096) in view of Busey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,785,708). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Amended claim 1 recites, in part, a Web collaborative browsing method that includes sending a created control message to an IRC server over a network such that the IRC server that receives the sent event occurrence control message, transfers the received control message to a plurality of clients participating in said collaborative browsing session opened by the collaborative browsing client and wherein the IRC server is configured to handle both the control message and a chatting message together. As admitted in the Office Action, on page 5, Mirashrafi fails to teach or suggest an IRC server. The Office action relies on Busey as allegedly teaching this feature. Applicants respectfully disagree.

In the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that it would have been obvious to adapt Mirashrafi to implement an IRC protocol disclosed in Busey to provide what appears to be real time communication. The Examiner further alleges that one of ordinary skill in the art would be able to infer that the IRC protocol could perform the browsing function disclosed in Mirashrafi. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner is using impermissible hindsight by merely picking and choosing elements from Busey while using Applicants claims as a blueprint since there is no motivation in either reference that would achieve the features recited in claim 1 – this is not permissible.

Specifically, Claim 1 recites the IRC protocol is used to send control messages and the Examiner admits that this feature is not disclosed in Mirashrafi. The Examiner relies on Busey disclosure of an IRC chat function and then alleges that it would be obvious to use the IRC protocol in Mirashrafi to send control messages. However, the IRC protocol disclosed in Busey is merely for chat sessions (See, for example, Figures 6 and 7). Busy does not teach or suggest that the IRC protocol should be used to establish a collaborative browsing session by sending control message via the IRC protocol – in fact, Busey actually shows, in Figure 6 for

example, that the pages are loaded via HTTP. At best, the combination of Busey and Mirashrafi would result in the system disclosed by Mirashrafi with the addition of an IRC chat as disclosed by Busey. In the advisory action, that Examiner points to the continuously open and real-time connection created by the IRC that is discussed in column 3 of Busey to argue that one of ordinary skill in the art would modify Busey to use the IRC functionality for collaborative browsing. This argument by the Examiner is erroneous. Specifically, Busey discloses the advantages of IRC that the Examiner is relying on and then goes on to disclose the use of HTTP to synchronize the browsers. Surely Busey possesses at least the level of skill of an ordinary person in the art, but Busey, from his own understanding of IRC was not able to infer that the IRC protocol could perform the browsing function disclosed in Mirashrafi. If such an inference would have been obvious, Busey surely would have disclosed it. In fact, however, the inference is not obvious with Applicant's instant specification as a blueprint.

Furthermore, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the IRC server is configured to handle both the control message and a chatting message together. As discussed above, this feature is not disclosed or suggested by Mirashrafi or Busey, at least because Busey uses HTTP to transfer the control message and as discussed above, there is no teaching or suggestion in the prior art of record to use IRC for the control message and the chatting message together.

Accordingly, no combination of Mirashrafi and Busey teach or suggest a Web collaborative browsing method that includes sending a created control message to an IRC server over a network such that the IRC server that receives the sent event occurrence control message, transfers the received control message to a plurality of clients participating in said collaborative browsing session opened by the collaborative browsing client and wherein the IRC server is configured to handle both the control message and a chatting message together, as recited in amended claim 1.

Claims 7 and 11 are believed allowable for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claim 1 because claims 7 and 11 recite features similar to the features of claim 1 discussed above.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 12, 3, 15, and 16 are believed allowable for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claims 1, 7, and 11 by virtue of their dependence upon claims 1, 7, and 11. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

B. Claims 4, 8, 9, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Mirashrafi in view of Busey and further in view of Esenther (U.S. Application No. 2002/0138624). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 4, 8, 9, and 14 are believed allowable for at least the reasons presented above with respect to claims 1, 7, and 11 by virtue of their dependence upon claims 1, 7, and 11 and because Esenther does not remedy at least the deficiencies of the combination of Mirashrafi and Busey discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.
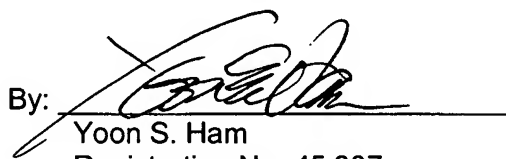
Conclusion

Therefore, all objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicants at the telephone number indicated below in order to expeditiously resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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